

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

Can Duties be Chosen?

The story is told that, when Mrs. Judson and Mrs. Newell, the first female missionaries, sailed for India, some ladies, in conversation, expressed disgust with their decision to throw away their lives among the heathen. It was remarked, "They feel it their duty." "But I would not feel it my duty," was the prompt response. We may theorize as we choose, but that anecdote preaches a sermon that cannot be gainsaid. People manage to believe about as they try to. The fact is a terrible one for any but prayerful and teachable souls. Who dares to trust himself with himself?—Advance.

Slaughtered by Rm.

"Great slaughter!" Alas, how true! Here is the bill of mortality for only one year in our own most favored land—3000 lives destroyed for time and eternity! 25,000 persons sent to prison! 10,000 innocent children sent to the poor-house! 1500 murderers! 10,000 orphans! 1000 widows! Add to this the indirect effects of intemperance in the production of innumerable diseases that would otherwise never have been known; and add also the thousands born with physical and mental derangement; and if your ear is not sickened at the appalling result for one year, go on and multiply it by all the years past, and by all the countries of the globe, and tell us if this grand total of misery, degradation, and death does not justify us in exclaiming, "Great slaughter!" "Great slaughter!"

Marrying by Lot.

One of the most curious customs of the Moravian Church is marrying by lot. A little book written by a lady who was once a member of the sect tells about it. The women live in an establishment under the charge of an Eldress, and the unmarried men in a like establishment. When one of the brethren wishes to marry, he announces his wish to the society, and the Eldress selects a lady whom she thinks suitable. Then lots marked yes and no are thrown into a box, and if the first drawn is in the affirmative, a new choice is made, and the lot once more appended to. Missionaries in distant fields of labor frequently have wives selected by the society, the ceremony of marriage performed with a proxy, and the bride sent on to their station, where, perhaps, they meet for the first time.

SUMMARY OF RELIGIOUS NEWS.

BAPTIST.

—There are in Great Britain 2411 Baptist churches, comprising 221,526 members.

—Rev. W. E. Corwell, pastor at Lower Dublin, of "Old Kennebec," as it was formerly called, was privileged to baptize five persons on the 7th inst.

—The First German Baptist Church in this country was established in this city in 1843. In twenty-six years they have increased to 85 churches, with 6518 members.

—A very precious work is in progress in the Frankfort church, of which Rev. T. P. Coulston is pastor. Eight were baptized on the 21st ult., and fourteen more last Sabbath. The work is still progressing.

—Rev. O. P. Eames, pastor of the Nicotown Baptist Church, on last Sunday evening baptized two persons. Afterward Dr. Richards baptized two of his children, a son and a daughter.

—Rev. Mr. Henson, of the Memorial Church, of this city, was permitted to baptize five converts on the evening of the 10th inst. God has greatly blessed his ministrations, and he has secured for his chapel, the house is already too small to accommodate the congregations. The rental of his pews amounts to \$6700.

—The increase of the Baptist denomination in this country in the last five years has been 9 per cent. in churches, 77 per cent. in members, and 98 per cent. in numbers. And better yet, the contributions have increased in a much larger ratio; in twenty-five years the contributions for Home and Foreign Missions have increased 384 per cent.

—The vacancy in the pastorate of the Olivet Church, in this city, occasioned by the removal of Rev. Mr. Wilcox to Bridgeton, has been filled by the choice of Rev. J. B. Hutchinson, pastor of the church at Princeton, N. J. Mr. Hutchinson will enter upon his duties April 1, and will be cordially welcomed to Philadelphia.

—We were baptized last Sunday evening by Mr. Hutchinson on Olivet.

EPISCOPAL.

—The Rev. Octaviano Perinelli, rector of St. John's Church, Georgetown, D. C., has accepted the position of General Secretary of the Evangelical Education Society, made vacant by the death of the Rev. E. J. Parvin.

—The Rev. Mr. Synod has decided that he should remain under the protection and in the pay of the Russian Government as before, and be subject to the jurisdiction of the Synod. His decision, it is stated, is objected to by the United States Government, since it is unwilling to tolerate any "protection" by a foreign power of persons residing in its dominions, and the journals of St. Petersburg are already warmly leading in favor of their distressed countrymen.

—A combination of priests in Mexico, who have withdrawn from the Roman Catholic Church, withdrew some time ago to the Episcopalians of this country for aid in establishing a Protestant Episcopal Church. They ask for the consecration of Bishop Diaz Martinez as the bishop of this new Mexican church. There is an aggregation of one hundred and ninety-eight families among the Mexican residents of Brownsville, Texas.

—The Missionary in Alaska, it is reported, is suffering serious inconvenience from the transfer of that country to the United States. Under the Russian rule, the members of the Greek Church were obliged to pay a tax for the support of their pastors in Moscow, and in the United States they are obliged to pay for the support of their pastors in Alaska.

—The report of St. Clement's Church has been completed. It is announced that the Rev. H. G. Johnson has been called to the rectorship, and that he has accepted the call, and has entered upon his duties. Mr. Johnson is now a High Churchman, and was the editor of the Church Chronicle of Philadelphia during his brief career. In that paper he advocated the most advanced principles of the evangelists, and the highest Sacramentalism. We cannot say to what extent the present gentleman will carry out and practically apply his doctrines and principles, but we hope that for the good of the souls of the people and for the welfare of the church, his practice will be better than his creed, and that some usages will be more honored in the church than in the observance of them.—Episcopal.

—The harsh names and bitter words which the Unitarians of the American Church are wont to use concerning the Reformers, and the distinguished men of that Church who have warmly espoused the cause of the Reformation, are significant. They are the words of a man who has seen the inward and deadly hatred which is felt by these men for the Reformation, and for the Protestant faith. Thus, Dr. Littlefield calls Bishop Barnes "a man of a religious fanaticism." They are the words of a man who speaks of "the Book of Martyrs" as a "magnum opus of lying, forgery, and all which is not now living, possessed of any self-respect or honesty, does otherwise than repudiate with contempt and aversion. They are quite as abusive in their treatment of eminent persons as they are of the very proper Englishmen of old and the proprietors by whom it was his opinion that the late Lord Palmerston was "a frivolous and heedless" actually declaring that this "frivolous" and "heedless" was "a frivolous, frivolous, or of bishops and deans was "a frivolous,

POPPISH OLD PAGAN.

This art of detraction seems to have been well studied by these Ritualistic divines.—Presbyterian.

Presbyterian.

—The Old School church of Chillicothe, Missouri, has joined the New School body, and is now supplied by the Rev. B. Sawyer, formerly of East Tennessee.

—There were added to the Kensington Church, Rev. Mr. Beale, pastor, on a late Sabbath, one hundred and eighty members, seventy-six of whom were converts. A precious work of grace is going on in this church.

—Forty-three persons united with the First Presbyterian Church, in this city, thirty-three by profession and ten by letter, on Sabbath week. Both at Barren and Dr. Johnson officiated at the Lord's table.

—The Presbyterian church of Ato, New Jersey, has just dedicated its new church building. It is on the Camden and Atlantic Railroad, at the home of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad running to New York city.

—Eighteen members were added to the South Church, in this city, on Sabbath week, and seventeen at the communion in January, making thirty-five. The Rev. Mr. Parsons took charge of this church a few months ago, and there are quite a number of others anxious about their eternal welfare.

—The North Church, Buffalo, N. Y., under the faithful ministry of Rev. W. Calkins, is loved more perhaps than at any previous time in its history. Meetings are held every morning at 8 o'clock, and again in the evening, conducted by the pastor, pervaded by deep and powerful feelings. He thought that about one hundred have passed from death unto life, and still the work is going on.

—A note from Lewisburg, Pa., says: "We had a most precious communion season in our church last Sabbath. Ninety Rev. Mr. Parsons received into membership; the result, in part, of the revival which was noticed in your paper a few weeks ago. Of this number, twenty-two were the heads of families. There are still others who propose to connect themselves with the church in course of time. The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

—Another correspondent says: "The venerable church at East Hampton, Long Island, planted more than two centuries ago, and watered often by precious pourings of the Spirit, has again been refreshed by the presence of the Lord. The prayers of God's people have been answered, and an answer of joy and peace granted to many hearts. At the communion on Sabbath week seventy persons were received on profession of their faith, thirty-six of whom received the ordinance of baptism. It was a precious season, and we trust that many will be turned upon the world and setting their faces to wards Zion. May the Lord incline us all, by his earnest of His willingness to bestow, to pray more fervently for the peace of Jerusalem."

CATHOLIC.

—The Sisters of Charity are about to found a hospital in Chicago. Sister Fairbanks, so long and faithfully known in the Holy Cross Hospital, has gone to superintend the erection and is Superior of the Chicago Hospital.

—There are now 31 Catholic parishes of the three kingdoms, 50 Catholic parishes, and 35 Catholic parishes in the County of Cork. In the past year there have been 63 priests ordained in England and Wales, the total number being 1489. Number of churches and mission stations, 1122; monasteries for men, 67; monasteries for women, 10; academies, 10; convents, 12; Scotland there are—clergy, 201; chapels and stations, 207; convents for women, 18; colleges, 2. There are 19 Catholic chaplains in the British army.

—Many of our readers will remember the history of the Abbess Makrina, a Basilian nun, sorely persecuted and maligned by the late Czar Nicholas, from whose agents she contrived to escape, to find a safe refuge at Rome. During twenty years she governed the convent of the Holy Spirit in that city, attracting the veneration of all who knew her, and offering all her savings and prayers for the deliverance of her nation from the oppressor. Her holy womanhood and her noble character were the arms of the Prince of Odesa, chief of one of her most devoted friends. Only two days intervened between her death and that of her countryman, Count Tolstoy, who had been in the city, and who, in his earth, whose suffering plea for the restoration of her national life, she has also saints in Heaven, whose prayers will perhaps obtain it.—London Tablet.

—The Index relates that the good Christians of Italy, astonished by a sign which has never deceived them, though the world will deride it as unworthy of notice, are expecting grave events. On the banks of the Foco delle Carceri, at Florence, a fountain of water usually without water, has a hermitage long inhabited by the seraphic patriarch, St. Francis predicted that whenever the mountain torrents should forsake other channels to flow through the city, the fountain would be restored to its natural state. Tradition asserts that the word of the Holy Spirit has been fulfilled on every occasion. From the day that Victor Emanuel set foot on the Pontifical territory, at Monte Gianicolo, on the 29th of July, the fountain has been filled by a menacing flood.—Ibid.

—The total number of Jesuits employed on missions throughout the world is 3429, of whom some have their own local mission which they govern, while others are auxiliaries of the Church. Of the former class are the vicarates of Hindostan and Bombay, 28 fathers; of Madura, 50 fathers; of China, 42 fathers; and of other places, including 8 vicars apostolic, 188 fathers, 46 vicars apostolic, and 100 fathers, 16 vicars apostolic, and 62 other vicars apostolic. Of the second class there are 139 fathers in England, 15 in Constantinople and the vicinity, 45 in New York, 10 in Maryland, 84 in Missouri, 35 in New Orleans, 24 in California, and 14 in the Rocky Mountains. These places, we judge, are the names given to districts of the United States, and include the whole country. Besides these, there are many more scholastics and "brothers conversants."

—We are glad to learn that Father Doane is succeeding in his charitable undertaking. He has received five thousand from his Grace, five thousand from Mrs. Patterson, and five thousand from another source. We have no doubt that any other parties would have done better, but before Father Doane's departure, others, no doubt, will emulate the example of the above. The object of this endowment is to secure a school for the American children in the city of Rome, and to found a college on lasting foundations, in which a certain number of candidates for the American mission will be yearly maintained and educated free. The success of the enterprise is so important, and we hope the opportunity will not be neglected by the wealthy Catholics of this city to raise an enduring monument to themselves and their posterity more lasting than marble or brass, in the heart of the Eternal City.—St. Louis Watchman.

—The Catholic Register (writes a London correspondent) claims that considerably over two thousand persons in England have "returned" to the bosom of the ecclesiastical "Mother" during the past year, a large number of whom are residents at the West End, and are the converts of Archbishop Manning, whose influence, which is undiminished, has been presented to something alarming, and have seen and heard him. You never saw a fiercer head on man, or a more spiritual face on woman, or, altogether, a more impressive and impressive face, in pulp or pantheon. His intellectual ability is conceded. His sermons are grand samples of English composition and Romish sophistry. The one I heard with most admiration. It was devoted to the full of love, and though temper—all was in keeping with the theme. The man with his thin white locks, his translucent complexion, his mature spirituality of expression, his manner kind and tranquil, and his eyes, and his delivery, transfused him into St. John before my eyes, and forgetting the abominable system he represents, I was lost in admiration of the beautiful old man. No wonder they set such a man to fishing for men and women.

REFORMED.

—The Lee Avenue Reformed (Dutch) Church of Brooklyn, New York, have called the Rev. Byron Sunderland, of Washington.

—Twenty-six young men are now in course of preparation for the ministry, under the care of the Board of Education of the Reformed (Dutch) Church.

LUTHERAN.

—Since last fall one hundred and forty persons have been admitted to the Lutheran church in Lewisburg, Pa.

—The fifth annual session of the Theological Seminary of the Lutheran Church in this city is now approaching its conclusion. Twenty-seven students have been in attendance during the year. The class about to be graduated consists of twelve.

—The Methodist says:—"The New York Ministerium," one of the Synods connected with the new (High Church) General Council of the Lutheran Church, has declared for close communion, and against interchange of pupils and members in secret societies. The General Council, at its last annual meeting in Pittsburgh, arrived, after long and warm discussions, at very ambiguous decisions on the above subjects, and on Millenarianism, which by no means satisfy the extreme High Church Lutherans."

REVIEW.

—A writer in the National Baptist says:—"The subject-matter may assist the reader in forming an adequate idea of the relative proportions of Jews and Gentiles. In round numbers we reckon:—

Table with 2 columns: Location and Number of Jews. Includes entries for London, New York, Philadelphia, etc.

—The Boston Wesleyan Association have made arrangements for the purchase of the Bromfield House for about \$100,000, and intend to replace that edifice by a large and handsome structure, which shall become the headquarters of the Methodists in that city. This association is a corporate body, and has been organized. Recently the Rev. Thomas S. Dunn, pastor of the Methodist church in San Jose, Cal., was notified that any further attention to the Chinese on his part would be visited with mischief to the church. He thought that about one hundred had passed from death unto life, and still the work is going on.

—A remarkable revival of religion is prevailing in Carbondale, Ill. During the past eight weeks over two hundred persons have been received into the Methodist church of that place on probation. General John A. Logan among the number.

PROPOSALS.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, SEWER, ETC.—OFFICE OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER, No. 104 S. FIFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, March 18, 1899.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Commissioner of Highways, Bridges, Sewers, Etc., at the City Hall, Philadelphia, on Monday, the 23d inst., for the construction of the following Sewers:—

On the line of Market street, between Fortieth and Forty-first streets, of three feet diameter.

Twenty-second street, between Race and Sumner streets, of three feet diameter.

Montgomery avenue, between Girard avenue and 250 feet northwest of Richmond street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Twenty-third street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Twenty-fourth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Twenty-fifth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Twenty-sixth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Twenty-seventh street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Twenty-eighth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Twenty-ninth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Thirtieth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Thirty-first street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

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Thirty-ninth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Fortieth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

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Forty-ninth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

Fiftieth street, from Coates to Brown street, of two feet six inches diameter.

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CHAMPION SAFES!

PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 15, 1899. Messrs. FARREL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 Chestnut Street.

Gentlemen:—On the night of the 18th inst., as is well known to the citizens of Philadelphia, our large and extensive store and valuable stock of merchandise, No. 802 Chestnut Street was burned.

The fire was one of the most extensive and destructive that has visited our city for many years, the heat being so intense that even the marble cornice was almost obliterated.

We had, as you are aware, two of your valuable and well-known CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES, and nobly have they vindicated your well-known reputation as manufacturers of FIRE-PROOF SAFES, if any further proof had been required.

They were subjected to the most intense heat, and it affords us much pleasure to inform you that after recovering them from the ruins, we found upon examination that our books, papers, and other valuables, were all in perfect condition.

Yours, very respectfully, JAS. E. CALDWELL & CO., No. 629 Chestnut Street.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18, 1899. Messrs. FARREL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 Chestnut Street.

Gentlemen:—On the night of the 18th inst. our large store, S. W. corner of Ninth and Chestnut streets, was, together with our heavy stock of wall papers, entirely destroyed by fire.

We had one of your PATENT CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES, which contained our principal books and papers, and although it was exposed to the most intense heat for over 60 hours, we are happy to say it proved itself worthy of our recommendation. Our books and papers were all preserved. We cheerfully tender our testimonial to the many already published, in giving the HERRING SAFE the credit and confidence it justly merits.

Yours, very respectfully, HOWELL & BROTHERS.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19, 1899. Messrs. FARREL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 Chestnut Street.

Gentlemen:—I had one of your make of safes in the basement of J. E. Caldwell & Co.'s store at the time of the great fire on the night of the 18th inst. It was removed from the ruins to-day, and on opening it I found all my books, papers, greenbacks, watches, and watch materials, etc., all preserved. I feel glad that I had one of your truly valuable safes, and shall want another of your make when I get located.

Yours, very respectfully, F. L. KIRKPATRICK, with J. E. Caldwell & Co., No. 819 Chestnut Street.

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